

WASHINGTON.

The President Defended by a Senator from the Nutmeg State.

Virtual Adjournment of Congress Until January 5th.

THE ALASKA INVESTIGATION.

How Private Axes Were Ground by Secretary Seward's Icebergs.

MISSOURI CONTESTED ELECTION.

No New Developments in the Financial Situation.

&c., &c., &c.

Special Correspondence of the Louisville Courier-Journal.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Congress was to-day without special interest in it. In the Senate, the day was consumed by Dixon, of Connecticut, in a speech on the subject of the Alaska investigation, to which the President had handed over his message to the House. He referred to the payment of the public debt. He defended, at length, the conduct of Mr. Johnson, and declared that his (Dixon's) colleague a day or two since, declared that if Senator Ferry had expressed such like sentiments in favor of peace and union, he would have been a traitor, while the Republican party had lived up to them, the country would be in a better condition. He welcomed his colleague to the conservative ranks.

At the House, the day was devoted to the adjournment of both Houses to-day. It was understood that the more business would be done until January 5th.

THE ALASKA INVESTIGATION.

Hon. Robert J. Walker and W. W. Ward, members of the Senate, addressed themselves to the President, and the Philadelphia, Boston, and New York papers, to the Alaska investigating committee.

Mr. Walker's speech was not to any newspaper coming to him, or to any other citizen.

Mr. Walker, however, testified that the appropriation had been made he advised the Russian Minister to offer Collier three thousand dollars in coin for services rendered, and in a communication to the Tribune, Colonel Yerkes declined to take it, on the ground that he was an officer of the U.S. At the same time, he was told that there was no money paid to any newspaper coming to him, or to any other citizen.

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B. C. G. was asked if he had ever received any money, who, after testifying, took the money. Mr. Walker further testified that he did not know what money was paid to any other newspaper coming to him, or to any other citizen.

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Chief Justice Waite, in alluding to the various rumors about the action of the Supreme Court on the constitutionality of the legal tender statute, said he did not believe there was any evidence of the judges who had given the slightest indication how he should act upon it. The decision may not be considered for a month or two.

THE FINANCIAL COMMISSION.

None of the financial committees were in session to-day and consequently there are no new financial theories developed. Senator Morton claims that a majority of the Senate Committee is already fully informed and is ready to proceed in its work.

REBELLION.

All the papers in regard to the membership of the Eastern District of Missouri are in the hands of the news gatherers. The President is awaiting the arrival of the information.

TOBACCO STAMPS.

The committee, consisting of Geo. Hibben, Henry H. Adams and B. Lovett, appointed by the Senate, has been in session to-day. Mr. Anderson and Mr. Switzer, their substitutes, and Mr. Anderson continue to sit in their places. Mr. Anderson is not present, but Mr. Lovett, not appearing—a brief and final statement of his case. Mr. Switzer declined to make an appearance, but Mr. Lovett, who has been consistently relying upon the evidence attacking it from south Whistlers as Hallbeck, Ross, Crane, Fiske, Merrill, Storer, Dutton, and others, has sold out and stopped doing business.

It is not expected the committee will report till after the holidays, a fact which gives an assurance a few weeks longer on a seat, to which it has been applied for.

THE ASSASSINATE.

At the trial of the assassin of the late Senator, Mr. Lincoln, the defense has been so completely discredited that the jury has been instructed to bring in a verdict of guilty.

THE FINANCIAL COMMISSION.

In the House, the bill to appropriate \$10,000,000 for the construction of the Pacific railroad, introduced by Mr. Lovett, and co-sponsor by Mr. Anderson, was passed by a vote of 100 to 27. The bill was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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